

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03203 210814Z

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10

SCA-01 AID-05 IGA-01 /052 W
----- 120102

R 210329Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5773
INFO CINCPACREP GUAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3203

FOR L. DEAN BROWN FROM MARSHALL GREEN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1.
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 115819

1. I RECEIVED REFTEL MAY 20 UPON MY RETURN FROM 7-DAY SWING THROUGH REMOTE NORTH AND WEST AUSTRALIAN MINING AREAS AND SO HAVE BEEN OUT OF TOUCH WITH REFUGEE AND ALL OTHER PROBLEMS.

2. PRIMIN WHITLAM (WHO IS THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN RESOLVE THIS ISSUE) HAS FORTUNATELY INVITED PHIL HABIB AND ME FOR LUNCHEON MAY 22 AND I WILL RAISE THIS MATTER WITH HIM AND, IF NECESSARY, WILL FOLLOW UP OVER NEXT FEW DAYS UNTIL PICUTRE CLARIFIES.

3. REGRETTABLY, PRIMIN WHITLAM HAS A QTE HANGUP END QTE ABOUT VIETNAM, AND A BASICALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON REFUGEES. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE IN CANBERRA MAY 20 HE DECLINED TO GIVE ANY ESTIMATE AT ALL OF THE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES AUSTRALIA WAS LIKELY TO TAKE, AND HE SAID THAT, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA HAD RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE MATTER. WHITLAM ADDED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IT HAD BEEN
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INSUFFICIENTLY EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS QUITE LIKELY THAT

INCREASING NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES MIGHT BE
RETURNING TO VIETNAM, SINCE FORECASTS ABOUT BLOODBATHS AND
HOLOCAUSTS HAD NOT MATERIALIZED. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE
RETURN OF THE REFUGEES TO VIETNAM WOULD BE THE BEST
OUTCOME.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750178-0056
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750528/aaaaazfw.tel
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Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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